

METHOD FOR PRODUCING LUBRICANT DETERGENTS**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention is a process for producing alkaline earth metal salicylates for use as lubricant detergents and to compositions prepared by the process. The process comprises two steps. Step 1 is the alkylation of salicylic acid is conducted using C₁₄ or greater linear α -olefins to produce alkyl salicylic acids in commercially acceptable yields. The alkylation conditions produce predominately mono-substituted para alkyl salicylic acids that are oil soluble. Step 2 is the oil soluble acid is subsequently neutralized and overbased by carbonation of lime using CO₂ in the presence of a promoter and a surfactant. The reaction mixture after overbasing is filtered and solvents are removed by distillation. Alternatively, alkyl salicylic acid can be reacted with a previously overbased alkaline earth sulfonate, e.g., calcium sulfonate, to produce alkaline earth salicylate salts comprising varying percentages of dispersed alkaline earth carbonate salts. In this method, no filtration of the end product is required, and, thus, it is commercially preferred.